

20 November 2020

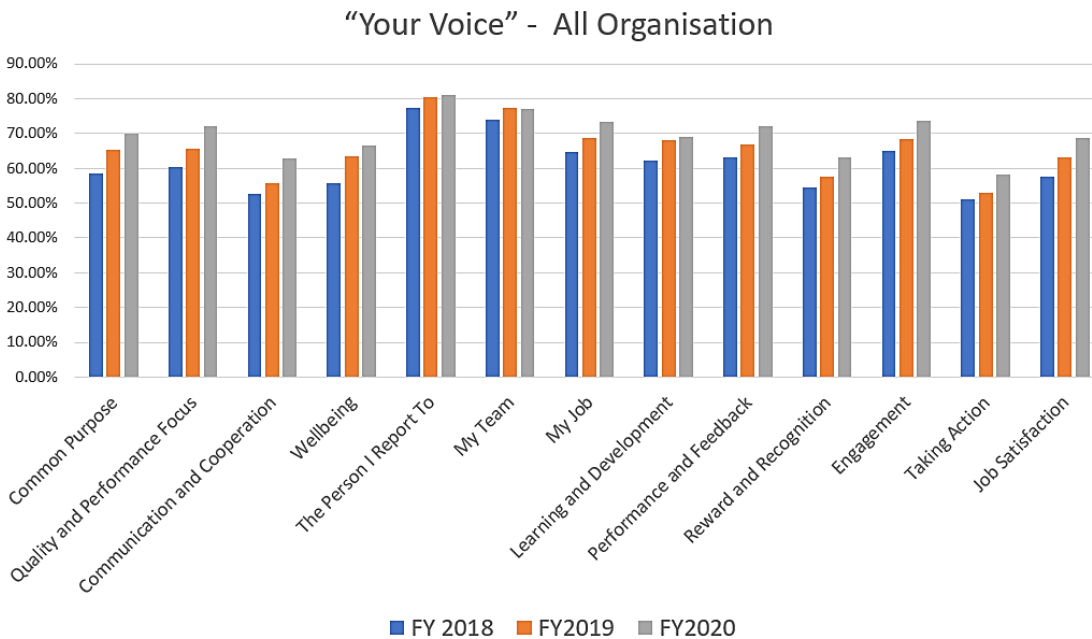
Kia ora koutou

Welcome to this weekly news update about Council projects and our economic recovery.

Shaun Clarke ONZM
Chief Executive



Staff workplace survey shows improving trend



Staff satisfaction levels in the latest *Your Voice* survey increased on last year’s results across 12 of the 13 areas measured. The confidential survey undertaken in October measured staff perceptions of leadership, communication and engagement, job satisfaction, training and coaching, performance measurement and health, safety and wellbeing. Satisfaction levels ranged from 63% to 81% and increased 4%, on average, on those in the 2019/20 survey. They were also higher than results in the 2019/2020 survey, continuing a three-year improving trend. Management will discuss the survey results with staff and share the work to address the issues raised and create a better workplace and organisational culture

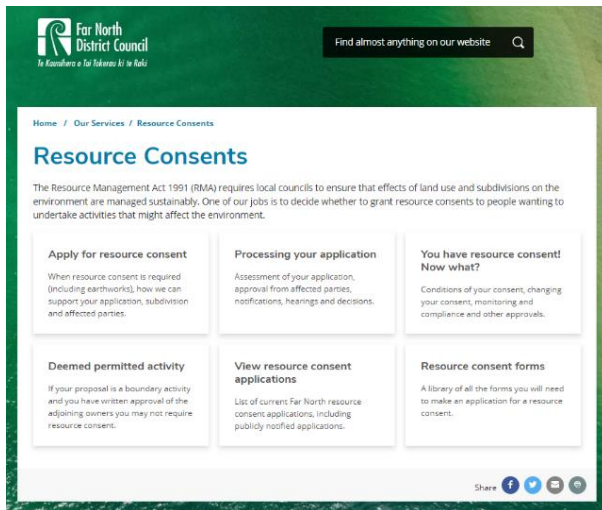
Safety railing installed at Mangonui



Safer: The Council has installed a steel safety railing at Mangonui waterfront where two people fell into the sea in September.

A section of the waterfront boardwalk at Mangonui is safer for pedestrians following the installation of a safety railing by the Council. The community has raised concerns about safety at the waterfront since an 89-year-old woman died after falling into the harbour in September. Another woman fell into the harbour at the same spot 48 hours later, but only sustained minor injuries. A steel, two-rail safety railing has now been installed at a section of the waterfront where the accidents occurred, improving safety for people entering or exiting parked vehicles near a nib wall that separates the road from the sea.

Winning streak for consents team



Information portal: The Council's [website](#) provides information about resource consents.

The Resource Consents Team has processed 100% of resource consent applications within the 20-day statutory timeframe for four weeks in a row. The team puts the achievement down to improvement initiatives and a concerted effort by staff to meet targets. 93% of consents were processed within 20 working days in October when the team received 101 consent applications. Staff have also achieved five of the seven milestones in the Vision 20/20 project which aims to improve the processing of consents. The team is developing reporting and business intelligence improvements with the Information Services Team and designing a technological solution to improve processing of consent applications by consultants.

Visitor numbers steady despite COVID-19

Closure of the border, the recession and COVID-19 restrictions had a relatively minor impact on visitor numbers at Council i-SITE visitor information centres over the last four months. Visitor numbers totalled 60,000 from July to November, compared with 66,432 in 2019/20. Visitor numbers in July and September were up on last year, but plunged in August when Auckland was at COVID-19 Alert Level 3 for more than two weeks.

Total visitor numbers at the Bay of Islands, Far North and Hokianga i-SITE visitor information centres						
Year	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Total	
2020/21	18,033	7,583	14,581	19,803	60,000	
2019/20	14,459	13,455	13,838	24,680	66,432	

Boat-building milestone at marine hub



Marine hub: A photo from a video of the commercial fishing boat Manakai. Click [here](#) to watch the video.

A marine hub Far North Holdings Ltd has developed at Opuha has broken a new record for boat-building. A 60-tonne commercial fishing boat that Bluefix Boatworks built at the hub for Russell-based Medea Fishing Company is believed to be the largest vessel built in the district in recent times. The build took 16 months, cost more than \$4 million and involved many local businesses. Bluefix employed 10 new staff and contractors for the project, bringing to 30 the number of people it now employs in Opuha. These workers and 10 further full-time staff will be needed for another “mammoth” 18-month project due to start soon.

Keeping litter out of the ocean



Cleaner waterways: The Council is trialling the use of litter collection basket at stormwater drains.

Litter collection baskets are being trialled at three stormwater drains in the district in a bid to reduce rubbish entering waterways and the ocean. The Council has installed three Enviropod LittaTraps in drains near Kerikeri Skate Park, Williams Road car park in Paihia and in Hawke Drive, Haruru Falls, as part of a trial involving the Northland Regional Council and NorthTec. The Enviropod LittaTrap is a patented catch basket that sits inside the stormwater drain and prevents trash and other debris carried by stormwater from entering the drain network and waterways. The LittaTraps will be cleared regularly and a NorthTec research team will analyse and record litter collected in the traps.

It's a wrap for new public toilets



New public toilets at Mitimiti now have a look that blends in with the natural environment. A vinyl wrap Kaitaia sign maker Signs of Life has applied to an exterior wall of the toilet and shower block features harakeke (flax) flowers silhouetted against the sky and ocean at sunset. The Council completed the toilets and showers in August under a programme of capital works partly funded by the Government’s Tourism Infrastructure Fund. It is also upgrading or building new toilets at Waipapa, Waitangi, Opononi and Haruru Falls with money from the fund.

Kaitiaki bless Kaikohe bore site



Blessing: Kaitiaki of the Waikotihe puna (spring) blessed the new bore site at Tokareireia (Monument Hill) on Thursday. Pictured are (left to right): James (Waikotihe Trust), Hagen Robertson (WWLA), Benji Potvin (Stellar), Ted Wihongi (FNDC), Wi Pou (Waikotihe Trust) and Simon Leaf (Waikotihe Trust).

Kaikohe could meet up to 45% of its summer water requirements from a second bore being drilled at Tokareireia (Monument Hill). Preliminary estimates suggest the new, 120-metre-deep bore could provide about 900 cubic metres of water a day, although that volume would only be used if Wairoro Steam, Kaikohe's primary water source, was running low. At the height of last summer's drought, Wairoro Stream flows dropped to less than 1 litre per second at the Council water intake and Kaikohe taps were in danger of running dry. Kaitiaki of the Waikotihe puna (spring), which is linked to the underground aquifer the Council already accesses, blessed the new bore site at dawn on Thursday. Testing to confirm flows and possible impacts on surrounding groundwater sources will begin when drilling is complete.

Back-up supply for bulk water users



Back-up water supply: A tank farm and portable water treatment plant at Sweetwater last summer.

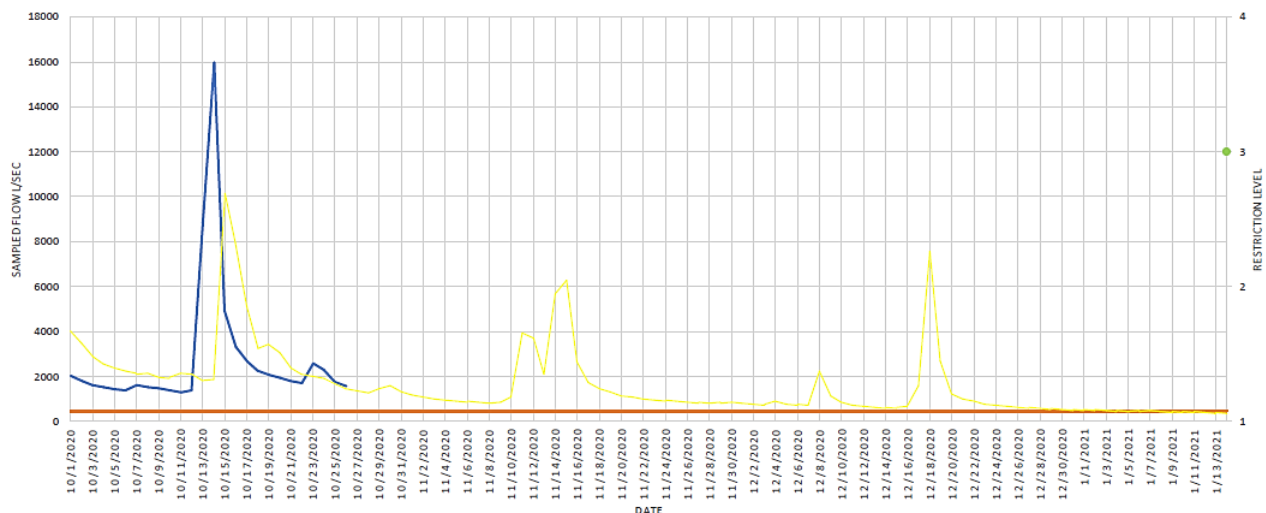
A Council bore at Sweetwater near Awanui will supply water tankers if required this summer, easing pressure on Kaitaia's main water source, the Awanui River. The bore was reopened at the height of last summer's drought to meet rising demand for water from bulk carriers. The Northland District Health Board approved the bore as a water supply after the Council commissioned a tank farm and portable treatment plant. However, drought conditions eased and no water was supplied from the bore. The Council is also constructing a permanent weir in the Awanui River below its intake pipe to raise the water level during dry weather.

Drought-resilience projects deliver

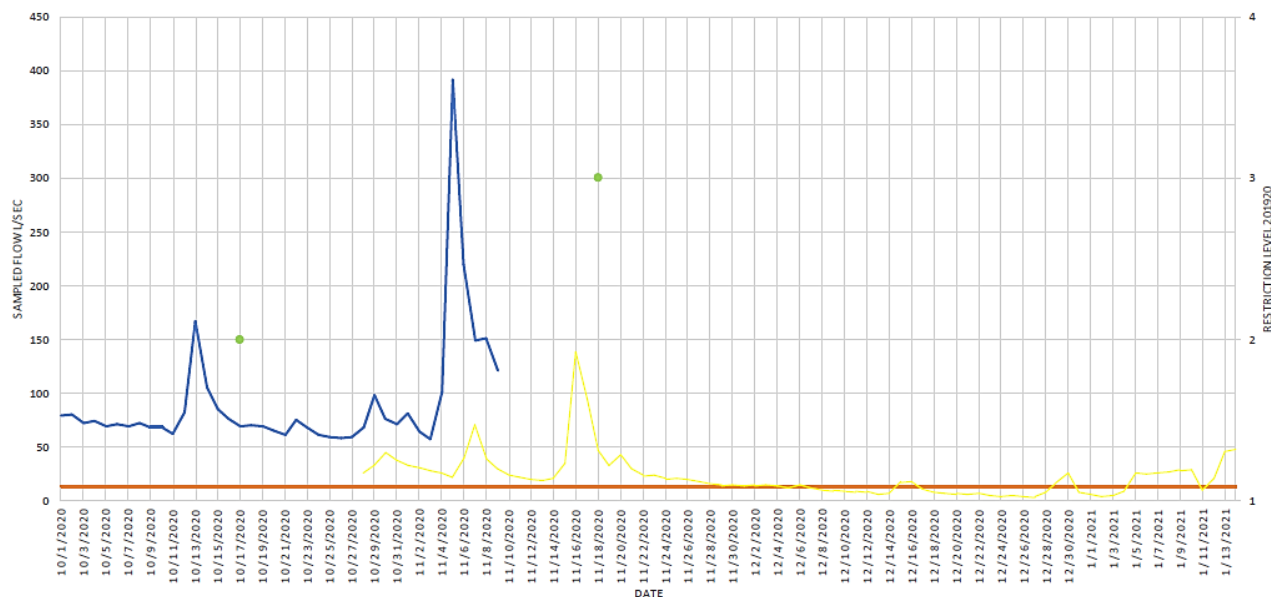


'Automatic' water restrictions won't be enforced at the Council's Opononi-Omapere and Rawene-Omanaia Water Supplies this summer, thanks to drought-resilience projects the Council completed last year. The Council normally introduces Level 2 water restrictions at these supplies on 1 December as a precautionary measure mandated by a Water Shortage Management Plan. Management has decided not to enforce automatic water restrictions at these supplies on 1 December and to assess the need for restrictions based on circumstance as it does with the other six water supplies. A bore the Council commissioned at Smoothy Road, Omapere, last summer is now able to meet 100% of demand and a new water treatment plant and water storage at the Rawene-Omanaia supply is operational.

Kaitaia and Kaikohe water supplies – Stream flow data

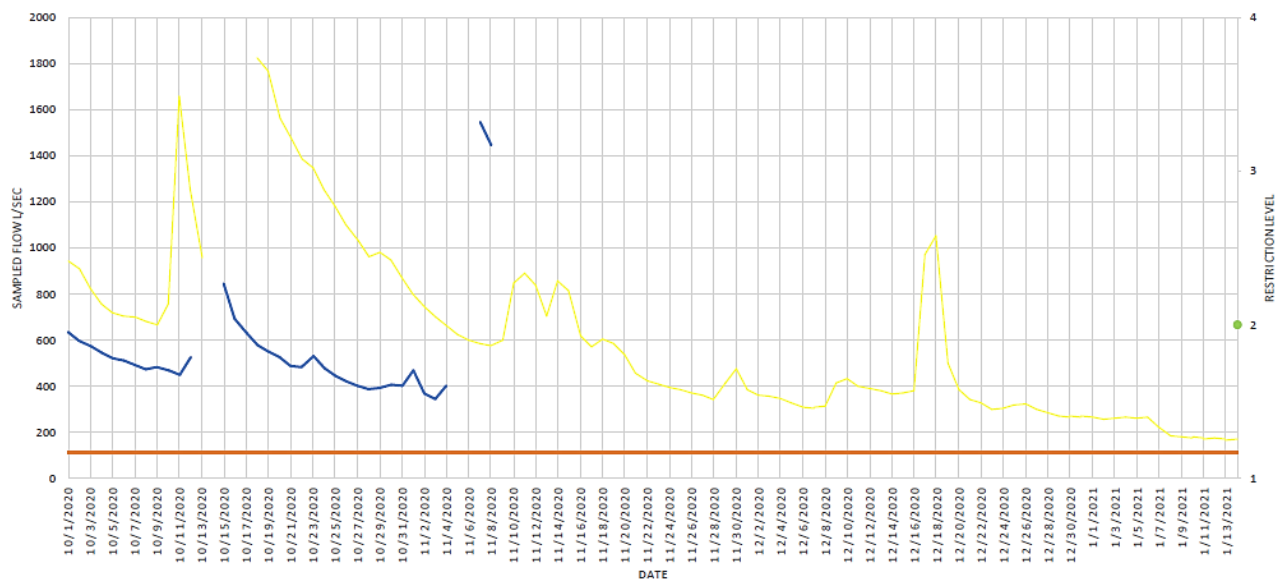


Flows in **Kaitaia's** main water source, the **Awanui River**, are above consented levels, but only slightly above flows this time last year when rainfall in Kaitaia was at a historic low. The blue line in the graph above shows flows since 1 October this year. The yellow line shows flows during the same period in 2019. The orange line shows the consented flow level. The Council must get permission from the Northland Regional Council to take water from the river when flows fall below this level. The green dot shows when the Council introduced Level 3 water restrictions in January 2020.

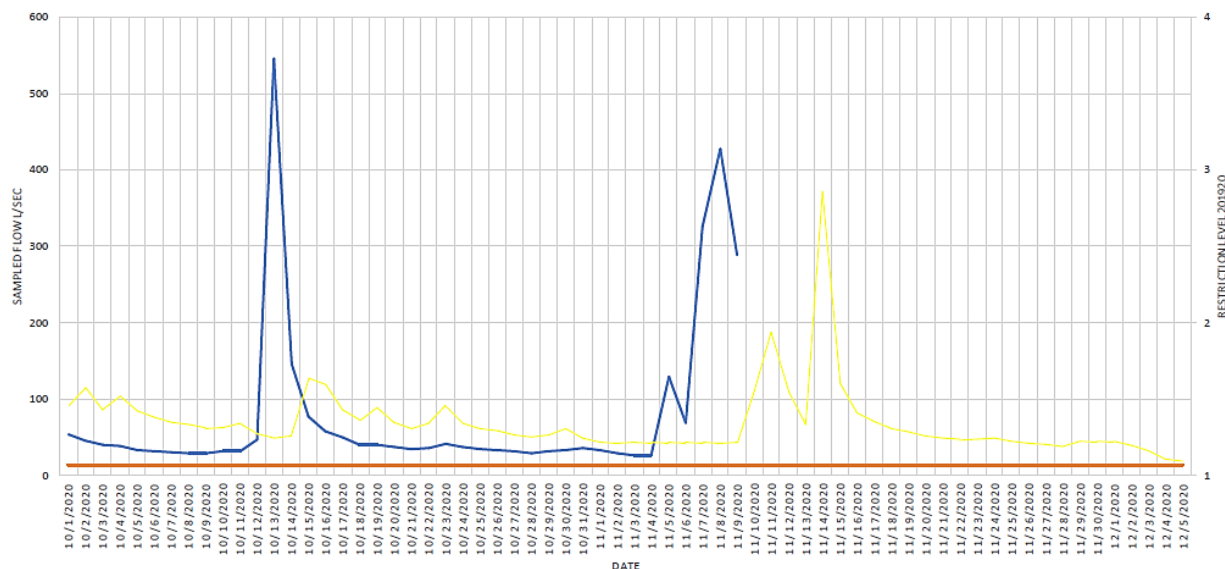


Flows in **Kaikohe's** main water source, **Wairoa Stream**, are well above consented levels and flows this time last year. The blue line in the graph above shows flows since 1 October this year. The yellow line shows flows in 2019. The orange line shows the consented flow level. The Council must get permission from the Northland Regional Council to take water from the river when flows fall below this level. The green dots show when the Council introduced Level 2 and 3 water restrictions last October and January.

Kerikeri and Opononi-Omapere water supplies – Stream flow data



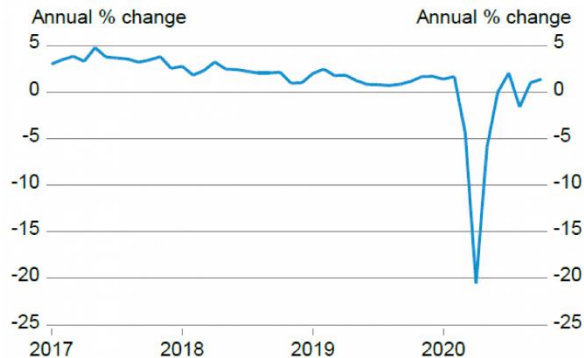
Flows in **Kerikeri's** main water source, **Puketotara Stream**, are above consented levels, but well below flows this time last year. The blue line in the graph above shows flows since 1 October this year. No data is available for some dates. The yellow line shows flows during the same period in 2019. The orange line shows the consented flow level. The Council must get permission from the Northland Regional Council to take water from the river when flows fall below this level. The green dot shows when the Council introduced Level 2 water restrictions in January.



Flows in **Opononi-Omapere's** water source, **Waitemarama Stream**, are above consented levels, but have been below last year's flows for most of the last seven weeks. The blue line in the graph above shows flows since 1 October this year. The yellow line shows flows during the same period in 2019. The orange line shows the consented flow level. The Council must get permission from the Northland Regional Council to take water from the river when flows fall below this level.

State of the Nation

Economic activity holds up in October



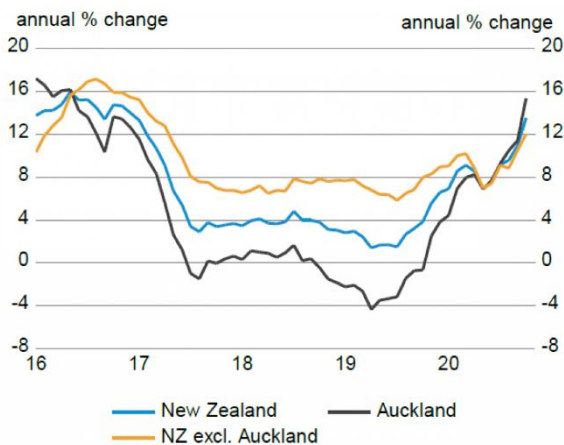
Economic activity in October was 1.4% up October 2019, according to the New Zealand Activity Index (NZAC). Most index indicators, including traffic movements, electronic card transactions, electricity demand and business activity outlook were up. The number of people receiving income support (Jobseeker and COVID-19 Income Relief Payments) has been declining since August but is still high compared to October 2019.

Economic index: The NZ Activity Index combines data from eight economic indicators and is updated monthly.

Measure of economic activity

The New Zealand Activity Index was launched by Treasury, Stats NZ and the Reserve Bank in July. The index tracks traffic and freight movements, electricity demand, retail spending, jobseeker and income support payments, government wage subsidies and consumer/business confidence.

House prices continue to rise



House price growth continued to strengthen in October. The Real Estate Institute of New Zealand house price index rose 3.0% to be up 13.5% over the year. Auckland became the first region in New Zealand history to record a median sale price of \$1 million. Seasonally adjusted numbers of sales fell 6.9% from September, but remain well above the number of sales recorded a year ago (up 25%). House prices have been supported by low interest rates, limited inventory, strong demand and monetary policy. The strength in the housing market is looking likely to persist through to at least the end of the year.

Going up: House price growth in New Zealand. Source: NZIER, Stats NZ

Graphs and text sourced from The Treasury's Weekly Economic Update – 13 November 2020. This information is licensed for re-use under [Creative Commons 4.0 International](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). Some of the original information has been condensed for the purposes of this newsletter.

COVID-19: Data dashboard

COVID-19: New Zealand*	
Confirmed and probable cases	2,010
Recovered cases	1,948
Active cases	37
Hospitalised people	0
Deaths	25
COVID-19: Northland*	
Active cases	0
Recovered cases	28
Hospitalised people	0
Deaths	0

*As at 9am, 19 November 2020 (Source: Ministry of Health)

International mortality rates at 19 November		
Ranking*	Nation	Deaths per million
1	Belgium	1,308.34
2	Peru	1,086.33
3	Spain	892.99
4	Argentina	808.81
5	United Kingdom	795.70
Other countries		
12	United States	760.02
92	Australia	35.76
134	New Zealand	5.08

(Source: www.statista.com)

Cases by country at 18 November		
Ranking	Nation	Cases
1	United States	11,695,711
2	India	8,912,907
3	Brazil	5,911,758
4	France	2,036,755
5	Russia	1,991,998
Other countries		
7	UK	1,410,732
94	Australia	27,777
161	New Zealand	2,008

(Source: www.statista.com)

Deaths by country at 18 November		
Ranking	Nation	Deaths
1	United States	254,255
2	Brazil	166,743
3	India	131,031
4	Mexico	99,026
5	United Kingdom	52,745
Other countries		
36	China	4,634
75	Australia	907
167	New Zealand	25

(Source: www.statista.com)

Daily confirmed & probable cases in NZ at 9am on 19 November

